Vol VIII. Numb. 3

# THE OBSERVATOR.

*Reflexions on a virulent Sermon preach'd at* Exeter, *on the* 31*ſt of* January *laſt; with a Vindication of thoſe now call'd Whigs and Diſſenters, from having any Hand in the Murder of King* Charles *the I. which is likewiſe unjuſtly charg'd upon the whole Nation by the High-flyers.*

From Saturday, February 5. to Wednesday, February 9. 1709.

*Country-m.* HEre's a Letter from *Exeter*, Maſter, with 30th of *January* Entertainment for you.

*Obſ.* What's that, *Roger?* I hope 'tis nothing of a Calves-head, for I never lik'd that ſort of Treat.

*Country-m.* 'Tis ſomething of that Nature, Maſter, and inſtead of a Kitchen, was cook'd at a Church in that City: But ſince you don't like the Head, you ſhall have ſome of the Brains.

*Obſ.* Come, diſh 'em up then, *Roger.*

*Country-m.* 'Tis thus, Maſter. On Monday the 31ſt of *January*, one Mr. *A----*, a Perſon very well known for his virulent Temper, made a Sermon, which from Top to Toe, was an Invective againſt Diſſenters. He confidently aſſerted, as the Letter ſays, 'That the Diſſenters had murther'd 'more Perſons, than all the Heathens and Papiſts 'together; that they were moſt barbarous and 'bloody; that they would kill the Queen, as they 'did the King, if they could; that they deſerv'd 'to be bury'd alive; nay, ſays he, I had almoſt 'ſaid, they deſerve to be damn'd before they are 'dead.

*Obſ.* That looks more like the Brains of a ravening Wolf, than of a Calf, *Roger:* But if ſuch Creatures will ſtrip themſelves of their Shepherds-Cloathing, who can help it.

*Country-m.* Wolves indeed, I think, Maſter. The Letter adds, That many of his Hearers laugh'd all the While that he rav'd thus at the Diſſenters; and after Sermon was over, a diſſenting Miniſter being there to hear it, about 200 of the Mob, having their High Church Blood rais'd by this virulent Declamation, inſulted the Gentleman, and follow'd him in the Streets as he went Home, ſhouting at him in a barbarous manner.

*Obſ.* A pretty Way to convert Diſſenters indeed, *Roger*, and an excellent Specimen of high-flying Charity. We may ſee what ſuch Wolves would do, were not their Teeth ſtruck out by the Toleration-Act, the Moderation of her Majeſty, and of our Revolution-Biſhops. Theſe are ſome of the bleſſed Effects of the uncharitable Principles ſpread by the *Rehearſer*, and his tantivee Brethren, thro' the Nation. This is much of the ſame Nature with the Mobs we have had an Account of in the *North* of *Scotland:* So that the Infection ſpreads from *Cornwall* to *Caithneſs.*

*Country-m.* But don't you wonder, Maſter, that a Man ſhould have the Impudence to utter ſuch Things any where, but much more from a Pulpit, whence we ought to have nothing deliver'd, but the Oracles of God?

*Obſ.* Such Men as thoſe never ſet God before 'em, *Roger*; they ſerve another Maſter, and his Work they will do. The Father of Lies inſpires his Children with Falſehood, Bitterneſs, and Malice, and teaches them to ſpeak in his own Dialect. I am as much againſt the barbarous and illegal Treatment King *Charles* the I. met with, as any High-flyer of 'em all, but think the Anniverſary appointed to be kept on that Account, ought not to be turn'd to a Madding-day. The Act of Oblivion in King *Charles* the IIs Reign, forbad all ſuch Reproaches, and the Equity of it continues, tho' the Time be expir'd; and ſo much the more, that our Legiſlature, in order to prevent ſuch fatal Diviſions as thoſe which occaſion'd that unnatural War, have thought fit to tolerate Diſſenters, and never intended they ſhould be the Object of Railing and Slander, nor to have the Mob ſet upon them by Invectives from the Pulpit or Preſs; but 'tis thoſe Mens Buſineſs to foment Diviſions, to make Way again for Popery and Slavery, as they did formerly. 'Tis very well known, that the Presbyterians in *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, did univerſally oppoſe the Tryal and Murther of that Prince; and they being much the greateſt Number of thoſe who are call'd Diſſenters, 'tis unjuſt to charge it upon Diſſenters in groſs. Every Body knows, that it was an Anarchical Crew of no fix'd Denomination, who puſh'd on that Tryal and Murther; and the very Army that broke up the Parliament, protected the Murtherers at the Tryal, and fought under their Conduct againſt the Kingdom of *Scotland*, who rais'd an Army to reſcue the King, and quell'd all thoſe who appear'd for him in *England*, did afterwards continue in King *Charles* the II's Pay, and moſt of 'em conform'd to the Church; and if we conſider, that of all the benefic'd Clergy in *England*, not above 2000 were Non-conformiſts after the Reſtoration, it will be found, that four times as many Church-Clergy-Men, as Diſſenting-Clergy of all Denominations, comply'd with the Courſes of thoſe Times. But Men of ſuch hot Heads as that *Exeter*-Prieſt, are too much troubl'd with Fumes, to have Room for clear Thoughts. Paſſion and Malice are Enemies to Conſideration.

*Country-m.* It is certainly ſo, Maſter, otherwiſe this *Orlando Furioſo* of a Prieſt, would not have ſaid what he did. Every Body knows, that the Diſſenters are ſo far from being Enemies to the Queen, that they univerſally fell in with the Revolution, which ſettl'd the Succeſſion upon her, when High-Church oppos'd it, were for a Regency to ſecure the late King's Title, and that of his pretended Son, and pray'd, that her Father might have her Neck to tread on: The Diſſenters univerſally join'd in the Aſſociation to maintain her Title, when High-Church was for bringing back the late King, with the Pretender, to execute her Majeſty, and the late Prince *George* of *Denmark*, as Rebels; and had agreed to levy Troops of high-flying Prieſts to hallow the Rebellion. 'Tis alſo well enough known, that the Diſſenters did univerſally abhor the Aſſaſſination-Plot, to cut off King *William* and Queen *Mary*, which would have involv'd her Majeſty in the ſame Fate, when high-flying Prieſts did abſolve the Aſſaſſins at the Gallows, without any Proof of Repentance for their Crimes. Nor can it be deny'd, that the Presbyterians in *Scotland* did publickly declare for her Majeſty, when high-flying Prieſts there encourag'd the *French* King and the Pretender to invade the Country, and dethrone her Majeſty; of which they are ſtill big with Expectation.

*Obſ.* We have ſpent too much Time, *Roger*, on ſuch a malicious Trumpeter of Rebellion, were it not to ſhew the Spirit of the Faction, whoſe reſtleſs Paſſions and arbitrary Principles make them fly

in the Face of the Laws both of God and Man. Moderation is expreſsly enjoin'd in the Scripture, and has been again and again recommended by her Majeſty from the Throne: But theſe Men are reſolv'd to have nothing to do with it, and will not own it to be a Chriſtian Vertue.

*Country-m.* I muſt beg your Patience to ſay a little more upon this Subject, Maſter; for I am not ſo much ſtartl'd at what the hot-headed Prieſt abovemention'd ſaid, as at the Expreſſions of others on that Day, who have had the Reputation of being moderate Men, and yet could not forbear their Reflexions upon the Revolution, as a painful, expenſive, and I know not what Sort of Cure. Is this their Gratitude to their God, and the Great Inſtrument in his Hand, King *William* of glorious Memory, who, by the joint Addreſs of our Lords and Commons, was own'd to have reſcu'd the Church of *England* from Popery! It would ſeem we have People among us, who have paſs'd for moderate Church-men, that think the Cure worſe than the Diſeaſe, and would rather have run the Risk of Popery and Slavery, than have had their nonſenſical Commentaries upon Paſſive-Obedience contradicted.

*Obſ.* I am afraid there's too much Truth in it, *Roger*, and that, as Dr. *Lambert* juſtly obſerv'd in his Sermon on the Anniverſary of the *Iriſh* Rebellion and Maſſacre, thoſe Principles are again coming in Faſhion. *Ireland* boaſts of her having no poyſonous Inſects, but we have found by Experience, they have poyſonous Prieſts and Lay-men, who do all they can to infect the Vitals of our Conſtitution, both in Church and State; witneſs their *Rehearſals*, their *Dodwells*, their *Higgins's*, their *Rapho* Addreſſes, and their *Tredagh* Men, *&c.* I think it the Concern of our Government not to let ſuch poyſonous Incendiaries foment Diviſions among us, and repreſent thoſe of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* as Enemies to her Majeſty; with whoſe Loyalty ſhe has been graciouſly pleas'd to declare herſelf ſatisfy'd, as all the World has Reaſon to be, ſince they have, on all Occaſions, ventur'd their Lives and Fortunes for her Majeſty's Title; and ſince it can't be controverted, that the Deliverance of *Ireland* from the late King *James*, with his *French* and *Iriſh* Cut-throats, was chiefly owing to them.

*Country-m.* Certainly you are in the Right, Maſter: And whatever Arts ſome People may uſe to leſſen our Apprehenſions of another Invaſion, I am of Opinion, that the *French* King and the Pretender have too much Encouragement for it; and that her Majeſty, as my Lord *Haverſham* ſaid, may be in Hazard of being dethron'd, if thoſe, who foment ſuch Diviſions, and inſult her Laws in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, paſs unpuniſh'd, and be ſuffer'd to act in this Manner.

*Obſ.* Let thoſe Men declaim in God's Name, *Roger*, againſt the Murder of King *Charles*, and the barbarous Regicide, as much as they pleaſe; but I think there's no Reaſon they ſhould be allow'd to run down our Conſtitution; of which they are very uncapable Judges. I am particularly ſcandaliz'd at their making that a national Sin, which the Nation, by their Repreſentatives, oppos'd, 'till they were broke up by Military Force in a tyrannical Manner, as is own'd by 12 *Car.* 2. Cap. 30. when they had voted, *That King* Charles *the I.'s Conceſſions were a Ground of Peace, and were accordingly treating with him*; therefore, ſince contrary to the very Letter of that Act, which takes Notice, *That the fanatick Rage of a few Miſcreants, whowere as far from being true Proteſtants, as from being true Subjects, ſtands imputed by our Adverſaries to the whole Nation*, they will needs charge the Nation with it, to me it's plain, that thoſe who do ſo, are, in the Senſe of that Act, the Nation's Enemies.

*Country-m.* In my Country Opinion, Maſter, they might as well charge any Man with being guilty of murthering himſelf and his Family, in Caſe his Servants, into whoſe Hands he put Arms for the Defence of them againſt high-way-men or Houſe-breakers, ſhould, contrary to their Duty, and the Truſt repos'd in them, make Uſe of thoſe Arms to murder him and his Family, in order to poſſeſs themſelves of his Money and Goods.

*Obſ.* Why, truly, *Roger*, I think your Compariſon not amiſs, ſince that Act does plainly ſay, 'That a Party of wretched Men, (meaning *Cromwell* and others) that were entruſted with Command in the Parliament's Army, threw down all 'the Bulwarks and Fences of Law; ſubverted the 'very Being and Conſtitution of Parliament; ſeduc'd Part of the Army, and kept the reſt in Subjection, 'till by theſe, and other more odious 'Arts and Devices, they ſtrengthen'd themſelves 'both in Power and Faction; ſeiz'd upon the King 'and the Houſe of Commons; ſecluded and impriſon ſome Members, forc'd out others; and there 'being left but a ſmall Remnant of their own Creatures, not a tenth Part of the whole ſought to 'ſhelter themſelves under the Name of a Parliament. Now, *Roger*, this being plain Matter of Fact, as appears by the Hiſtory of thoſe Times, and aſſerted by the Authority of a High-Church Parliament, if thoſe hot-headed Prieſts had the leaſt Spark of Truth or Modeſty, they would not charge that upon the Nation, which they could not help, no more than you or I could do, if our Servants ſhould ſurprize and tie us Hand and Foot, and murder our Wives and Children before our Eyes; and ſince that Parliament charges the execrable Murder of King *Charles* the I. upon a few Miſcreants, who were far from being true Proteſtants or true Subjects, is it not downright Sedition, to charge it upon the whole Body of Diſſenters, who are tolerated by Law, as true Proteſtants, and ſign the Doctrine of the Church of *England*, tho' they differ from her about Government and Ceremonies? And when 'tis manifeſt to the World, that they are true Subjects, and univerſally own her Majeſty's Title, and declare for the Proteſtant Succeſſion, as being both good in Law, without covering themſelves, as many of thoſe Prieſts do, under the knaviſh Diſtinction of ſwearing to her only as Queen *de facto*, while they look upon the Pretender to be King *de Jure*. But if they will ſtill charge the Nation with the Guilt of that Murder, it were eaſy to prove, that their own Faction had the largeſt Share in it, by preaching and writing down Parliaments, by poſſeſſing the King with an Opinion, that he might levy Money without them; that the Subjects ought to pay it on Pain of Damnation, by repreſenting the Arch-biſhops, *Abbot* and *Williams*, and other moderate Church-men, with all the Puritans, as Traytors and Rebels; by treating the Parliament it ſelf as ſuch; and by perſwading the King to enter the Houſe of Commons, whilſt arm'd Men ſtood without in the *Lobby*, to have ſeiz'd ſuch Members as ſpoke for the Conſtitution; which, to every Man that is for preſerving our Government by King or Queen, Lords and Commons, muſt needs make that Faction, who are branded by our Parliament as Men of arbitrary Principles and reſtleſs Paſſions, to be raging fanatical Miſcreants, perhaps and ſcarce of a lower Size, than thoſe who murder'd King *Charles* the I. towards which they laid ſo deep a Foundation.


## Advertiſements.

☞ The Scourge of Venus and Mercury, repreſented in a Treatiſe of the Venereal Diſeaſe; together with an Appendix in anſwer to Mr. John Marten's Reflexions thereupon. By J. Sintelaer, Practitioner in Phyſick. Price of the Appendix alone bound 6 d, together 3 s. d d. Sold by R. Gofling at the Mitre in Fleet-ſtreet, W. Carter at the Green Dragon in St. Paul's Church-yard, J. Phillips at the black Bull in Cornhill, H. Ribotteau at the Crown near Cecil-ſtreet in the Strand, B. Picard at the 3 Bibles in the Minories, J. Harding in St. Martins-lane near Long-acre, J. Morphew near Stationers-hall, and by the Author at his Dwelling-houſe (late the Duke of Leeds's) in high Holborn, over againſt little Turn-ſtile.



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